

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

April 17, 2019

Commission Members Present:

Bob Ford
Kui Zhao
Scott Markow
Bianca Chang
Hector Garcia
Joan Hash
Peter Hwang
Leslie Salgado-Tamayo

Commission Members Absent:

Reverend Turner
Shiraz Ahmed

Staff:

Farheen Sheik, OHR Staff
Melissa Goldmeier, HRC Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. PUBLIC FORUM –

3. APPROVE MINUTES – February minutes approved. March minutes approved with amendments per request from Commissioner Scott. March minutes will be updated to reflect “discussed appeal 19-03-001, from Rp. HRC decided that Rp has no right to appeal. HRC denied request.”

4. CHAIR’S REPORT – No report. Chair Bob welcomed Leslie Salgado-Tamayo as she attended her first meeting as a new member of the HRC.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS - Please review reports prior to the meeting. If you have any questions regarding the reports submitted, please bring your questions to the meeting. (**Reports submitted)

- ❖ Finance and Fair Lending with Housing – Scott/Shiraz – Hard copy report submitted by Scott. Scott highlighted Federal Update re. President Trump’s 2020 fiscal year budget request, which proposes to drastically cut federal housing benefits. Per Kui, Grace Law #2 passed in the Senate. Per Janssen, please view the legislation tracker on MAACO for up-to-date information.
- ❖ Legislation – Bob/Kui – Hard copy report submitted by Kui. Kui highlighted CR12-2019, referencing two new appointments to the Commission, which were introduced.
- ❖ Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – Reverend Turner – No report.
- ❖ HRC Awards Committee – Bianca/Hector – Bob met with Bianca and Hector following the Public Input meeting at Long Reach H.S., to discuss the HRC award nominees. Three candidates were sent to the full body for discussion and to vote. Winners will be determined during the conference call.
- ❖ Human Trafficking Committee – Peter, Shiraz and Joan – No report.
- ❖ LGBTQ Committee – Bob – Please see Bob’s written report. Per Bob, PFLAG will host its annual fundraiser, “Queens and Cocktails.” Information will be circulated to all members. Howard County’s Pride Event will be held in June. More information will be shared next month.
- ❖ Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – Bianca – No report.
- ❖ HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Reverend Turner – No report.
- ❖ Ad-Hoc / Nominating Committee – Peter, Joan – No report.
- ❖ Community Outreach Sub-Committee – (formed following CR-180 Study) – Peter, Hector – No report. Per Scott, Mary Campbell, OHR staff and Scott both met with leaders of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). The meeting was extremely productive. Both Scott and Mary shared detailed information about the services OHR/HRC offers to Howard County citizens. A follow up meeting will be held.

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6. STUDENT REPORT – No report.

7. STAFF REPORT – Janssen submitted OHR staff report.

7. CLOSED SESSION – N/A

8. NEW BUSINESS – Per Kui, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Members of the Asian and Indian communities will host program and events. Kui will share more information in the weeks ahead.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS –

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Conference call was held on 3/27 at 6:15 p.m. Members Kui, Peter, Bob, Hector and Scott called in. Quorum was confirmed.

- Questions or comments regarding HRC Correspondence dated 3/1/19 and HRC Response drafted by HRC Legal Counsel (M. Goldmeier) – all approved
- HRC Award Nominations and Selections of Winners (Chair Bob and Commissioner Hector) – all approved nominations forwarded by Awards committee